UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE NICARAGUA, MANAGUA
UNAN - MANAGUA

Faculty of Education and Languages
English Language Department

Introduction

The Degree Examination (Examen de Grado) is a mode of graduation for the English TEFL major at UNAN-MANAGUA. It is in the tenth semester of the major. The undergraduates are required to enroll in one mode of graduation in the second semester of their fifth year. It is the participants' responsibility to prepare themselves for this examination. This examination determines whether an undergraduate will be eligible to receive a bachelor's degree in TEFL.

This examination has several sections to assess participants' linguistic and teaching competence over three consecutive days. All test sections are designed for a C1 level according to the CEFR (Common European Framework). The test sections are: reading, writing, grammar, listening, speaking, and teaching. All test sections are done individually.

On the first day, participants will take two tests: reading, which will be held at a given set time, and a room that you will be informed of later. The test duration is 60 minutes. The writing section is also on the first day, with a duration of 60 minutes.

Grammar and listening are the sections that will be administered on the second day of the examination. The test will be held at a given time and place, and you will be informed later. The grammar section will have a duration of 40–50 minutes. The listening section has a duration of 40–50 minutes.

On the third day, which is the last day of the examination, each participant will have 30 minutes to prepare a speech of 7 minutes before presenting themselves to the Examination Board. After the speaking section, each participant will give the demo class to the Examination Board. The demo class has a duration of 40 minutes.

The chart below illustrates test sections and their corresponding scores.

Test Section	Items	Time	Score
Reading	Multiple choice	60 minutes	15pts
Writing	Essay	60 minutes	15pts
Grammar	Multiple choice Completion Sentence errors Writing procedures	50-40 minutes	15pts
Listening	Multiple choice	50-40 minutes	15pts

	Matching Completion form		
Speaking	Speech	7 minutes	15pts
Teaching Demo	Lesson plan demo	40 minutes	25pts

Day 1

Reading Test Section

In this section, test takers will be given two reading texts. Usually, one text is long and the other is short. Here are the reading skills that the test will assess. Remember that the reading test, like the other test section, will be level C1.

- Recognize main ideas
- Recognize details
- Identify main ideas and Supporting details in paragraphs.
- Recognize different text genres
- Find specific information such as names, numbers and dates
- Use title to predict content
- Make inferences
- Order details to determine the sequence of events
- Reading between the lines to draw conclusions
- Finding context clues to infer meaning in sentences and paragraphs
- Guessing meaning from context

Writing Section

In this section, the test takers will write an essay using any of the prompts provided on the day of the examination. Here are the specifications for this section:

Dear examinee, in order for you to show your writing skills, you are required to write a 300-400-word essay; hence, please consider the following contents to prepare yourself for the real task:

- Types of essays: opinion, persuasive, compare-and-contrast, cause-and-effect.
- Structure of an academic essay: introduction, development, and conclusion
- Structure of a paragraph for an academic essay: hook, background information, thesis statement (according to the type of essay), topic sentences (according to the type of essay), supporting sentences, details, concluding sentences
- Connectors: opinion, addition, compare-contrast, persuasive, cause and effect, sequence, and so on.
- Cohesive devices.
- How to show coherence and cohesion
- Tenses for essays (according to the type of essay)

- Punctuation rules
- Capitalization rules

Day 2

Grammar Section

In this section, test takers will answer different types of test items that might require error analysis, the production of sentences or short texts, as well as conventional test items such as completion, multiple-choice, and labeling or matching. This test, like the rest, is addressed to meet the parameters of a C1 level according to the CEFR (Common European Framework).

- ❖ Active and passive voice (the latter as used in formal academic English writing)
- ❖ Mixed conditionals (i.e., a task containing all conditional forms)
- ❖ Multi-word verbs, formal and informal versions of a verb to convey similar meanings (e.g., Investigate: look into)
- ❖ -ing and the particle “to”
- ❖ Prepositional phrases, lexical verbs, parts of speech
- ❖ Modals
- ❖ Information packaging constructions

Listening Section

The test takers will listen to the audio twice for each test section. Make sure you read the instructions carefully. If you don’t follow instructions, you will be penalized with the annulment of the item(s) that were answered without following instructions. Here are the details of this test section.

Listening skills and strategies that may be included in your test:

- Identifying main ideas and details
- Making inferences
- Using context to guess meaning of unfamiliar words
- Extracting main points from arguments and discussions
- Identifying viewpoints and attitudes
- Distinguishing facts from opinions
- Following complex lines of arguments
- Following chronological sequence in extended informal discourse
- Identifying main reasons for and against an argument or idea in a discussion

- Following complex interaction between third parties in group discussion and debates
- Following extended discourse even when it´s not clearly structured
- Taking notes

Your listening test may include recordings related to:

- Social, professional and academic life
- Current affairs
- TV news
- Documentaries
- Live interviews
- Talk shows
- Instructions
- Announcements
- Messages

Day 3

Speaking Section

In this section, students will be given 30 minutes to prepare their speech before delivering it to the examination board. Here are some of the topics that can be given to you for the speaking section.

1. Environment
2. Technology
3. Education
4. Language learning
5. Language teaching
6. Types of generation
7. Entertainment
8. Artificial Intelligence
9. Multiple intelligence
10. Work and study
11. Communication

Instructions

You will have 3-5 minutes to answer the question below. Make sure you follow the speech requirements listed when preparing your speech.

Speech Requirements

- Clear attention-getter at the beginning of the speech.
- Thesis that states strongly and clearly your opinion on the topic
- Three or more reasons are clearly given with support (citations).
- Appropriate use of transitions to connect ideas
- Delivery is fluent, with no fillers (hesitation) to distract the audience.
- Gestures and facial expressions that clearly enhance the message
- There are no errors in the use of grammar.
- Appropriate pronunciation, intonation, and articulation
- Summary of the main points of your argument
- Ends with a final memorable thought

Demo class

For the demo class, the test takers will demonstrate their lesson planning and teaching performance skills. They are given the specifications of the task for analysis; in such a task, usually the target topic and/or linguistic skills for the lesson are presented or explained. The tasks may refer to teaching specific features of language skills (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) or microskills (grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation). The test takers have two days in advance to prepare to develop their lesson, paying special attention to relevance, appropriacy, and adequacy of teaching methodology, strategies, techniques, and activities, teaching sequence, materials, and pacing of the lesson. Later on, the examinees are given 40 minutes to give a demo lesson on the topic and/or skills assigned and 5 minutes to answer the questions posed by the examining board.

Demo lesson assessment criteria:

- Lesson is organized and logically sequenced.
- Lesson includes a variety of activities to address different learning styles.
- Lesson is appropriately paced.
- Appropriate and effective transitions between activities are provided.
- Presentation of material is clear, organized, and error- free.
- Teacher anticipates students' misunderstandings and presents the material in a variety of ways.
- Mastery of teaching content or topic is evident.
- Teacher gives reinforcement and feedback that encourage student engagement.
- Teacher manages student behavior proactively in a firm, respectful tone.

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